

The PICTOGRAM and the PLATE

A mysterious crop-circle pictogram appeared one night in a German wheat field.

The mystery deepened with the discovery of metal plates buried underground, bearing exactly the same pictogram!

by Michael Hesemann

Out of the 26 crop circles and formations which appeared in Germany during the summer of 1991, the most interesting and complicated one was discovered by joggers in the early hours of 22 July at Grasdorf near Hildesheim in Lower Saxony.

The 300 foot long by 150 foot wide pat-

tern (it covered an area of 45,000 square feet) consisted of seven symbols and 13 circles, with a cross in the middle circle representing the ancient German sun symbol. The whole structure resembled a Scandinavian rock painting of a 'Chariot of the Sun', a sacred symbol of the ancient northern Germans and a symbol for the 'heavenly chariots' of the Nordic gods.

The site of the pictogram is archaeologically significant. It lies at the foot of the Thieberg, a hill where the free men met for "Thing", an early form of parliament. In immediate proximity we located the Wuldenberg, a pagan sanctuary of the great god Wodan, destroyed by Charlemagne in the late 8th century when a church was erected.

The forest between the Thieberg and the Wuldenberg was called the Heilige Holz (Holy Forest), a controversial sacred forest of the Germans up to the late Middle Ages. When a castle governor (Burgvogt) ordered the forest cut down in 1273, he was killed by the Grasdorf people in what resulted as a small civil war. The forest remained untouched until the 19th century. Archaeologists agree that it had been a sacred ground for about 4,000 years.

The owner of the field, farmer Werner Harenberg, assured me he found the pictogram in such a cleancut, accurate way, that he immediately ruled out any possibility of a hoax. Tim Schunemann of Goslar measured the pattern on 24 July and reported:-

The circles were nearly perfect. The longest straight line of the pattern was exactly in an east-west direction. The edges were clearly cut; the change from standing to lying stalks was abrupt. The circles had nice and symmetric spiral patterns. The stalks were flattened in a clockwise direction and not broken.

Members of the research group EFODON measured radioactivity with a Geiger-Müller counter. The result: the pointer deflected many times with a maximum of .737 microsievert/h—76% higher than the prescribed maximum for work-rooms—then fell back. Normally this is impossible because radioactivity is constant.

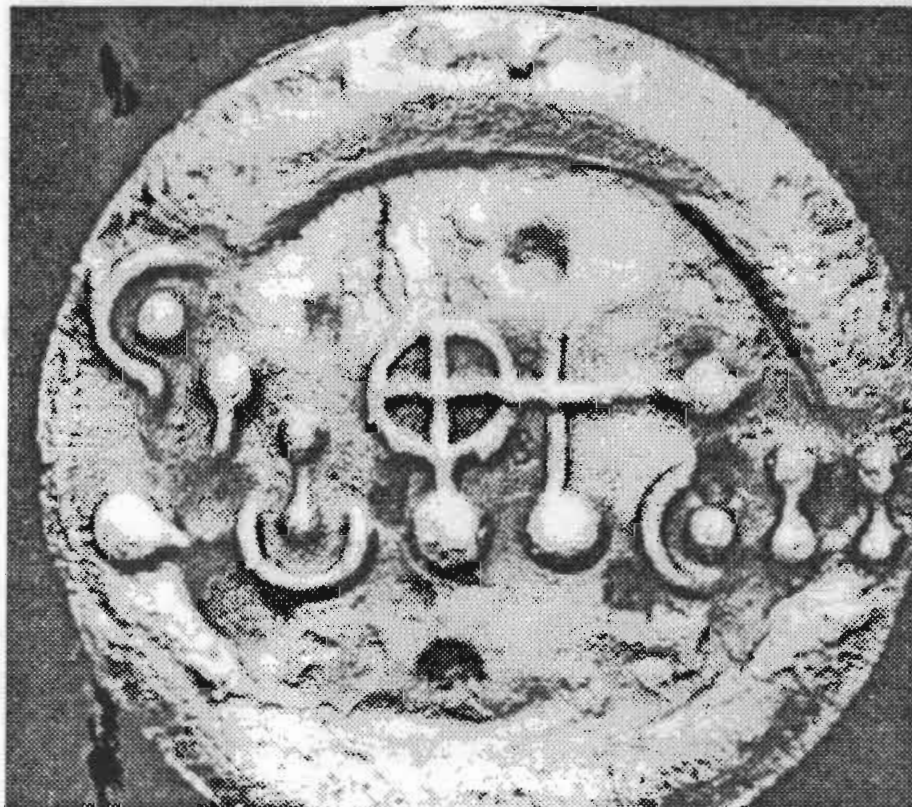
Was this an authentic pictogram?

The evidence speaks for itself. Because the formation is located immediately next to the B444, a busy street, hoaxers most probably couldn't have stayed undetected. One thing is sure—when a promenade passed the field at 11 pm, nothing unusual was seen. At about 1.30 am, Christian Fiedler, from Grasdorf, saw an orange-colored, pulsating, flashing light hovering over the area in question and flying to and fro.

At 2 am, other witnesses heard a strange "whooping" sound with intervals similar to but louder and duller than a helicopter.

The Grasdorf pictograph received great attention from the media. Hardly a newspaper in Germany failed to publish an aerial photograph of the formation and thousands came to visit the site. Farmer Harenberg, after reading about the reaction of British farmers, started to ask for an entrance fee of about one pound, and ordered one of his farm workers, a Turk named Chema Kucuk, to watch the field and collect the money.

Many visitors came with dowsing rods or pendulum, Geiger counters or metal detectors. One of them was successful. On 2 August he located metal in three of the circles, the ones surrounded by a half-ring. He marked the sites and told Chema that he was going to ask Mr Harenberg for permission to dig. He soon came back with a mattock and shovel, claiming to have permission and started to dig.



At a depth of two feet he discovered three heavy, 10-12-inch diameter metal plates fully covered with dirt and soil. He showed them to Chemal, the farm worker, and said he was going to take them to Mr Harenberg. The man drove away and never came back. Instead he called the farmer on 7 August and sent him a picture of one of the plates. Amazingly, it was covered by the same signs which had appeared in the field.

When I interviewed Chemal he ruled out all possibilities of a hoax. The plates were too deep in the soil, they were too encrusted with dirt to be something located there for only a short time. Indeed, the mysterious digger came just at the right time, shortly after the first rain in the area for weeks. A few days before, the ground would have been too hard for digging.

Before the pictogram appeared, the wheat field was definitely untouched. Chemal told me he tried to clean the plates and that he could recognise there was something on them. But he couldn't see more because they were too crusted.

According to German law the plates found on his land are the property of Mr Harenberg, and when speaking to the finder on the telephone, he stressed this point. The result was that the finder would not tell his name or his phone number and avoided all further contact with the farmer. The only thing sure about his identity is a photograph taken of him by Chemal. It shows a man with a moustache in a blue-collar painter's outfit.

In August, a man calling himself Mr Hase showed the three discs to the local press. Together with the editor, he went to a local jeweller. He discovered that the plates were made out of very pure metals, one of gold, one of silver and the third of bronze. The silver was of higher purity than sterling. The gold was so-called 'alt-gold', gold of the highest purity.

One of the persons present at the Grasdorf pictogram at the time of 'Herr Hase's digging, a Mr Pfeiffer from the Ruhr area, was able to contact the finder in September. He learned the gold plate had been destroyed to sell it to a local jeweller for a few hundred thousand Deutschmark. The other two plates were sold to Mr Pfeiffer for DM50,000 (about AUD \$45,000). Whether this price was for each or both, I do not know.

In the meantime, the controversial German psychic and "channel of the Ashtar Command", engineer Hermann Ug from Reutlinger, allegedly received a message from the space brothers, claiming the "young treasure hunter was inspirationally instructed to find the plates", and that they were placed there "about 300 years ago on a former visit of the gods on earth as evidence of this extraterrestrial visitation for the afterworld". According to Ug they were made out of a "special metal alloy unknown to terrestrial science".

At another channeling on 23 December 1991, Ug declared that "a metallurgical examination could very easily prove their extraterrestrial origin". This inspired the

Tubingen Town Attorney Dr Johannes Roemer Blum to start his own investigation. In June 1992 he was able to meet Mr Pfeiffer personally and arrange a metallurgical examination of the plates.

The results are attested to by the German Federal Material Inspection Authority.

One plate is of a copper/tin alloy with 10-15% tin, 1% nickel, and traces of iron, less than 0.1%.

The silver plate consists of the purest silver with traces of iron less than 0.1%.

Although the result is not highly unusual, it definitely rules out any possibility of a hoax. The plates are much too valuable to have been used for a mere joke. The ground was too hard for any undiscovered digging before or at the time the pictogram appeared. The field had been watched by Chemal Kucuk, the Turkish farm worker, and it is definite that Mr Hase appeared at the scene the very first day after it rained.

So, the question remains: Who deposited the three plates beneath the formation? And why? It appears the assumption of an 'alien component' is legitimate. ∞

Michael Hesemann is a cultural anthropologist, author of seven books and publisher of Germany's leading metaphysical magazine 2000.

He is also organiser and host for a number of international UFO conferences held in Germany.

